

Alternative Energy by Erin Doherty

Have you ever wondered if our world is using the right kind of energy? Why do we need alternative energy? Alternative energy is the energy we can use to power our homes, cars, and electronics that will help our environment. One type of alternative energy is wind power. Another type is solar power. The best alternative energy for Marlborough is solar power.

Why do we need alternative energy? We need alternative energy because according to the government's EPA website, the Earth's climate is getting warmer. Why is the Earth's climate getting warmer? The Earth is getting warmer because people are adding greenhouse gases to the air which is trapping the heat in. They are doing this by burning fossil fuels. One greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide. Which traps the sun's heat in the atmosphere rather than letting some of it go back into space. The bad effect of this is on our climate. If the climate changes many places in the world will get effected by it. Because of global warming Europe is shrinking the amount of snow pack in the Alps, because of the warmer weather without snow, as a result, in the summer and spring they don't have enough water. South America is losing homes because when a thunder storm is mixed with warm weather it creates a hurricane. It will hurt animals' habitat and ours. There are many more places that have many different problems just like these ones. This is why we should use more alternative energy and less fossil fuels, to reduce global warming by not adding a lot more CO₂ to our atmosphere.

One type of alternative energy is wind power. Wind power is using the wind to more wind turbines to create power. "Wind power is the use of the wind to do useful work, such as making electricity." According to *Wind Power* by Shirley Anne, Ramaley, the wind today is created by wind turbines. Wind turbines are a machine that takes wind and converts it into energy that powers homes and most things electric. According to *Earth, Wind, and Water* by, Eric, Powell the lack of data the wind energy is not accurate. The blades are designed very poorly so sooner or later they will break down or slow down our wind energy. so wind can do useful work but there are problems with it. Wind is not the only alternative energy, there is also solar power.

Another great alternative energy is solar power. Solar power is energy from the sun. Also called free energy. "Sunlight is a much cleaner form of energy than fossil or nuclear fuels. Energy sources such as sunlight, wind, and waves one called renewable

sources, because they will never run out they keep renewing themselves.” According to another article, *Energy from the Sun...Solar Power*, solar panels are a source of alternative energy because you don’t have to pay for it – the sun is free energy. Solar power can also be used for electricity to heat and run objects that might need electricity. According to a bet on the sun by New York Times magazine, a California plant is the largest solar power plant in the world and they are trying to get the rest of the world to use solar power. This plant powers 140,000 more homes than any other.

Out of these two alternative energies, solar power would be best for the citizens of Marlborough to use. Why would solar power be the best to use? It would be the best to use because the weather in Marlborough is sunny, Marlborough has 202 sunny days in a year. Another reason for choosing solar power is because it is free energy. Solar energy is free to have, all you have to do is buy the solar panels and with the leftover power it gets sent it to the substation for others to use. A final reason for choosing solar power is because only 35,000 people live here in Marlborough so we would need much less than the large California plant that powers 140,000 homes.

Now you know what alternative energy’s the earth has been using. Marlborough should be using solar power to help save our earth from greenhouse gasses. All you have to do is buy your solar panels today and we will be back on track in no time.